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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1417th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 12 July 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Report of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June 1993 (A/AC.109/1159)

- Reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (continued)

Question of Pitcairn (A/AC.109/L.1799)

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Question of St. Helena (A/AC.109/L.1800)

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/L.1796)

Question of dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/L.1797)

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/1160 and L.1798) (continued)

- Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/1162 and A/AC.109/L.1801 and L.1802)

- Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (A/AC.109/1153, 1155-1158)

- Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/1144, 1149 and 1151)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

- Draft report of the Special Committee

- Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

REPORT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE SMALL ISLAND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM, AT PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, FROM 8 TO 10 JUNE 1993 (A/AC.109/1159)

The CHAIRMAN: I call on Mr. Eugene Pursoo, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, the Rapporteur of the Seminar, to introduce the report.

Mr. PURSOO (Grenada), Rapporteur of the Seminar: I have the honour to introduce the report (A/AC.109/1159) of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was adopted on 10 June 1993. This was the second Seminar held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Information on the legislative mandate for the convening of the Seminar, its objectives and the themes which formed the basis of discussions is provided in the report's introduction.

The Special Committee was represented at the Seminar by Ambassador Renagi Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea, who chaired the proceedings, as well as by representatives of Chile, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Indonesia, Mali, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, and by my own delegation.

The important opening statement by the Chairman is summarized in paragraphs 15 to 23 in section II of the report.

(Mr. Pursoo, Rapporteur of the Seminar)

At the opening meeting, participants were also honoured to hear an address by The Honourable John R. Kaputin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, the text of which is annexed to the report. At the closing meeting, a message from The Right Honourable Palas Wingti, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, was read out by Mr. Maimu Raha-Nou, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. The Prime Minister's message too is annexed to the report.

A full list of participants is contained in annex III of the report.

In keeping with the Special Committee's position, as represented in the approved guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar, that the views of the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should be given pre-eminence, the important statements delivered by those representatives are summarized in section II (B) of the report.

In their statements, those representatives addressed a number of issues of relevance to the Special Committee and its work, including the questions of self-government, self-determination, independence and the need for political-education programmes. Participants from the Territories also spoke of the importance to the dependencies of education and human resources development, as well as the impact of immigration and emigration on the process of self-determination and the role of the expatriate workforce in the Territories.

Section III of the report contains a summary of discussions that took place at the Seminar; it covers three broad topics: political development, economic and social development, and environment and development. The views expressed at the Seminar on those topics will, I am sure, be of value to all

(Mr. Pursoo, Rapporteur of the Seminar)

members. Beyond reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Seminar participants made constructive suggestions and various proposals that will assist the Committee in its consideration of the problems of the various Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In addition to the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories which the Committee was able to hear at first hand, the Seminar also provided the opportunity to listen to representatives of non-governmental organizations and special guests.

I should like to highlight some of the views and concerns expressed by the participants at the Seminar. It will be noted from the report of the Seminar that the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories all expressed appreciation for the safeguard of their right to exercise fully their right to self-determination within their determined time-frame. They also indicated the specific situations in each Territory which call for careful consideration of the various options available to them on the basis of the concrete problems that relate to their political experience and economic conditions.

The summary of discussions also covered, among other things, a broad spectrum of issues, including the provision of educational and technical skills and development assistance; the impact of the tourist industry on the culture of the Territories and on the availability of land for their peoples; the problem of in-migration of settlers and other migrants into the Territories; the problem of illicit drug trafficking; protection of the environment and sustainable development; access by the Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations; and participation by their

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representatives in the work of the United Nations. It was also noted that the Special Committee should intensify its dissemination of information on decolonization directly to the Territories and that they in turn should provide up-to-date information, on a regular basis, on the situation in the dependencies and on the peoples concerned.

Those are some of the areas the Seminar dealt with. I commend the report for serious consideration by the Special Committee.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to express once again my deep appreciation to the Government of Papua New Guinea for its warm hospitality and effective assistance in making possible the successful conclusion of the Seminar. Owing to its cooperation and unfailing assistance, we were able to conduct our deliberations in the most pleasant and effective conditions. I wish also to place on record my appreciation for the close cooperation extended to me by participating members of the Seminar, which facilitated my task as Rapporteur. I wish also to thank His Excellency Ratu Manasa K. Seniloli, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations.

I wish in addition to thank all the members of the Secretariat who worked long hours to assist me.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): I listened carefully to the statement of the Permanent Representative of Grenada in which he presented the report of the Seminar. I also read very carefully the report on the Seminar held at Port Moresby. I must say that I was very surprised. I was very surprised because that report contains no reference to the question of East Timor. That question was debated at the Port Moresby Seminar. The Ambassador

(Mr. Ribeiro-Telles, Portugal)

of Portugal to Australia was present; a number of other participants spoke of the situation in East Timor.

When I saw section II (B), which contains a summary of statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, I saw American Samoa; I saw Guam; I saw Tokelau; I saw New Caledonia; but I did not see one single reference to the question of East Timor, which, as I understand it, was the subject of lengthy discussion at the Seminar.

I think that is very regrettable that, when the Special Committee is rightfully calling for cooperation by the administering Powers, there should be not a single reference to the statement made by our Ambassador in his capacity as representative of the administering Power of East Timor.

I hope the Chairman can clarify this situation.

The CHAIRMAN: The remarks just made by the representative of Portugal have been noted.

Are there further comments? I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): I am sorry to importune you, Mr. Chairman, but I would like an explanation concerning the omission from this report of the question of East Timor.

The CHAIRMAN: In response to the question put by the representative of Portugal, may I say that, in line with the decisions of this Committee in relation to the tripartite consultations that are under way between the Government of Portugal, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Secretary-General, and in line with the procedure that was followed at a similar seminar in the region, held in Vanuatu, the Committee decided not to

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take any substantive actior or decision on East Timor, even though, as the representative of Portugal notes, there was a debate on the question of East Timor at the Port Moresby Seminar. This was to provide a conducive climate in which the tripartite consultations could proceed without too much difficulty.

I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): We are not dicussing the report of the Seminar in Vanuatu; we are discussing the report of the Seminar in Port Moresby. I am not asking for any concrete input to the substance of the question. I only ask that a statement of fact be inserted in this report concerning the statements made by the representative of Portugal and other representatives at the Seminar in Port Moresby. I do not feel that this could in any way jeopardize the tripartite talks being held with the Secretary-General. I only ask that there be a report of the statements made by representatives of Member States or other participants on the question of East Timor.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any member of the Committee who participated in the Seminar wish to make any remarks on the statement made by the representative of Portugal?

Mr. PURSOO (Grenada), Rapporteur of the Seminar: As I recall it, the question of the discussion on East Timor was considered at one time. Because of its contentious nature, we suspended the Drafting Committee and called a special session of the Committee to discuss the matter.

At that point, I believe, we thought we had an agreement on a statement that would satisfy Indonesia and Portugal. I recall being told by members of the Committee at a later point - to my surprise, of course - that Portugal preferred to have nothing recorded rather than have the statement that was agreed on by the Committee. It was surprising to me, but it seemed to me at that point that Portugal itself said it would prefer to have nothing recorded, and the Committee simply accepted that.

To my recollection, that is why there is nothing there, because the Committee understood that both Portugal and Indonesia said that they would

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prefer nothing rather than have something that did not satisfy them. It was left at that. I hope this has cleared the matter up.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to confirm the situation as described by the representative of Grenada: Portugal withdrew its submission to the Committee after very long and serious consultations among the members of the Committee.

I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): The Permanent Representative of Grenada said he was very surprised by the situation. I wish to read out to all the members of the Special Committee the proposed reference in this regard:

> "Views were also expressed by some administering Powers and others who participated in the Seminar on the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories."

That does not contain any reference to the question of East Timor, so of course it was unacceptable to us. But my point today concerns part B of section II of the report, on page 8, which is a summary of statements made at the Seminar by some representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. There is not a single reference to the statements made in this regard by the representative of Portugal and others at the Seminar.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the Committee in a position to adopt the report?

Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation has only just received the report and would like an opportunity to review it.

The CHAIRMAN: On the basis of that request, the Committee at this point will take note of the report, but will continue its consideration and take action on it at its next meeting. If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

REPORTS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (continued)

QUESTION OF PITCAIRN (A/AC.109/L.1799)

QUESTION OF ST. HELENA (A/AC.109/L.1800)

QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (A/AC.109/L.1796)

QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION (A/AC.109/L.1797)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will take action on these Subcommittee reports at a later stage.

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/1160 and L.1798) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no comments concerning this item, may I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1798, prepared by the Chairman on the question, without a vote?

The draft resolution was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/1162 and A/AC.109/L.1801 and L.1802)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to the report prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1801, giving an account of the consultations held with representatives of the administering Powers concerned. Members also have before them in document A/AC.109/L.1802 a draft resolution on the item.

During my consultations, I informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the

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Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing first-hand information on those Territories. In that regard, I wish to express the Committee's appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for having extended an invitation to the Committee to send a visiting mission to Tokelau early in 1994. The invitation has been circulated in document A/AC.109/1162.

(The Chairman)

If no member wishes to speak on the item, may I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1802 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1802 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: In respect of the invitation extended by the Government of New Zealand contained in document A/AC.109/1162, may I take it that the Special Committee accepts the invitation?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Special Committee and on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation of the continuing cooperation of the Government of New Zealand in the related work of the Special Committee.

The Committee has thus concluded its consideration of this item.

ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1153, 1155-1158)

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1144, 1149 and 1151)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to these items, members have before them the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat. In respect of the item on specialized agencies, the reports of the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council should be published soon.

It appears that no member wishes to speak in the general debate on any of these items.

(The Chairman)

I wish to urge members to inscribe their names on the list of speakers in the general debate and would suggest that the list be closed at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 13 July.

I would also urge members to continue their consultations in respect of the draft decisions still pending on these three items. I have received from only one member an indication of interest in participating in the informal drafting group. Any other members who are interested should contact the Secretariat as soon as possible, as time is of the essence.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN: In order to facilitate the submission in good time of the Committee's report to the General Assembly, I would suggest that, in keeping with the practice adopted by the Committee at previous sessions, the Rapporteur be requested to prepare and submit directly to the Assembly the various chapters of the report covering the items on which the Committee has concluded consideration. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to follow that time-honoured practice.

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform members that for the rest of this week we have scheduled two meetings a day. At our meeting tomorrow morning we shall begin consideration of the question of East Timor. As members will have seen in aide-mémoire 13/93, the Committee has received to date 23 requests for hearing. I would therefore urge all delegations to be on time so that we may begin our meetings promptly.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.